

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested.

The claims have been carefully reviewed and corrected to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner.

As discussed during the telephone interview of February 12, 2009, the present invention is clearly distinguishable over the cited references because the cited references do not disclose an apparatus with a nozzle or solder reservoir and a component holder cooperating to apply solder to the leads of the component with the nozzle/reservoir including a plate separating the leads during the soldering action.

More specifically, the original intent was to have claim 9 cover two embodiments of the invention. In one embodiment, the component board support moves the component board down to the solder nozzle and then up, and in the second embodiment, the nozzle is moved up to the component board and then down. In order to avoid the apparent confusion noted by the examiner, claim 9 has been now been amended to cover only the first embodiment.

Claim 25 has been amended to make it more clearer and distinct.

The remarks of the examiner regarding claims 32 and 33 are not understood since claims 32 and 33 have been cancelled previously.

The remarks regarding claims 20 and 27 are not understood since claim 20 is an independent claim and claim 27 is a dependent claim and hence they inherently cannot cover the same subject matter.

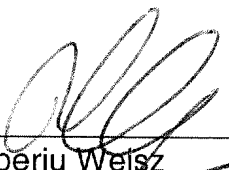
The remarks regarding claims 9 and 28 are not understood since claim 9 is an

independent claim and claim 28 is a dependent claim and hence they inherently cannot cover the same subject matter.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any additional issues related to this application.

It is respectfully submitted that all the pending claims are now in allowable condition. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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